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B1, 1.4(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOT-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00
	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	UTED-00	VC-00	FRB-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00
	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/010W				

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4852
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PREL, ETRD, VE
SUBJECT: "ACTIVE MOURNING" MARCH SET FOR FEBRUARY 27;
GENERAL STRIKE IN MARCH.

1. THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED (SBU). PLEASE
HANDLE ACCORDINGLY.

2. SUMMARY: THE CONFEDERATION OF LABORERS (CTV), IN
CONJUNCTION WITH MOST OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES, WILL
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
CLASSIFIED BY DEPT. OF STATE, L. R. LOHMAN, DAS, A/ISS
REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 24 FEB 2012
DATE/CASE ID: 11 OCT 2006 200505275

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HOLD A LARGE DEMONSTRATION MARCH ON FEBRUARY 27, THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE "CARACAZO" RIOTS THAT RESULTED FROM PRESIDENT ANDRES PEREZ'S ECONOMIC MEASURES. IN RESPONSE, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD HOLD A MARCH IN SUPPORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT. ALSO, WHILE NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED, SOURCES HAVE INDICATED THAT THE CTV, WITH THE SUPPORT OF FEDECAMARAS (NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE), WILL HOLD A 48-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE SOMETIME IN MARCH. END SUMMARY.

FEBRUARY 27 "LUTO ACTIVO" MARCH AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

3. THE CTV WILL ORGANIZE WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE A LARGE DEMONSTRATION MARCH ON FEBRUARY 27. STARTING BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 10:00AM, THE MARCH WILL LEAVE FROM THE PLAZA MORELOS IN CARACAS AND MOVE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE MARCH WILL
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COMMENCE A DAY OF "LUTO ACTIVO" (ACTIVE MOURNING), AS NOMINATED BY THE ORGANIZERS OF THE EVENTS. THE LEADERS OF SEVERAL OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE MARCH, AND HAVE INVITED THEIR MEMBERS AND THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE. MARCHERS WERE INVITED TO WEAR BLACK TO SYMBOLIZE MOURNING FOR VENEZUELA.

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THESE STATEMENTS HAVE

ADDED SIGNIFICANCE IN THE WAKE OF VIOLENCE AT THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY (UCV) ATTRIBUTABLE TO "BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES." ON FEBRUARY 20, ALLEGED MEMBERS OF A BOLIVARIAN CIRCLE USED VIOLENCE (INCLUDING ALLEGED GUNSHOTS) IN AN ATTEMPT TO BREAK UP A PLANNED TORCHLIGHT ANTI-CHAVEZ MARCH.

5. ALSO ANNOUNCED FOR 6:00PM ON FEBRUARY 27 WERE PLANNED DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE PLAZA FRANCIA IN THE ALTAMIRA SECTION OF CARACAS (THE SITE OF NUMEROUS RALLIES IN SUPPORT OF DISSIDENT CAPTAIN SOTO), AND IN PLAZA MADARIAGA IN THE EL PARAISO SECTION OF CARACAS. RUMORS OF PLANNED VIOLENCE BY MVR SUPPORTERS CAUSED CHACAO MAYOR (ALTAMIRA IS IN CHACAO MUNICIPALITY) LEOPOLDO LOPEZ TO MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24. HE SAID THE CHACAO POLICE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CARACAS METROPOLITAN POLICE, WOULD "USE ALL NECESSARY FORCE TO DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE LEGALLY REGISTERED GROUPS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO PEACEFULLY DEMONSTRATE."

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6. FINALLY, AT 9:00PM ON FEBRUARY 27, OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE CALLED FOR A NATIONWIDE CACEROLAZO (BANGING OF POTS).

CHAVEZ'S MARCH OF JOY

7. AS HE DID IN RESPONSE TO THE OPPOSITION'S JANUARY 23 MARCH, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED A MARCH IN SUPPORT OF HIS GOVERNMENT. CALLING IT A "MARCH OF JOY," CHAVEZ ANNOUNCED THAT HIS SUPPORTERS SHOULD GATHER AT 9:00AM NEAR PARQUE DEL ESTE. THE MARCH WILL TAKE A CENTRAL ROUTE AND END AT MIRAFLORES PALACE. CHAVEZ CALLED THE MARCH OF JOY TO REMEMBER THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE "CARACAZO" RIOTS.

8. THE ROUTE ANNOUNCED BY CHAVEZ DIFFERS FROM THE OPPOSITION MARCH. IF THE TWO GROUPS MAINTAIN THEIR PLANNED ROUTES, THEY SHOULD NOT MEET. CARACAS MAYOR AND ORGANIZER OF THE PRO-CHAVEZ MARCH FREDDY BERNAL CONFIRMED "WE WILL MAKE PROVISIONS SO THAT THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE OFFICIAL MARCH WILL NOT HAVE TO FACE THE OPPOSITION."

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	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PC-01
	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	SSO-00
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9. CHAVEZ ALSO ANNOUNCED, WITHOUT DETAILS, A CELEBRATION OF THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE PLAN BOLIVAR 2000 (CHAVEZ' ECONOMIC AND RECONSTRUCTION PLAN ANNOUNCED SHORTLY AFTER HIS ELECTION). THIS CELEBRATION WILL OCCUR IN THE FUERTE TIUNA MILITARY BASE IN CARACAS IN THE AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 27.

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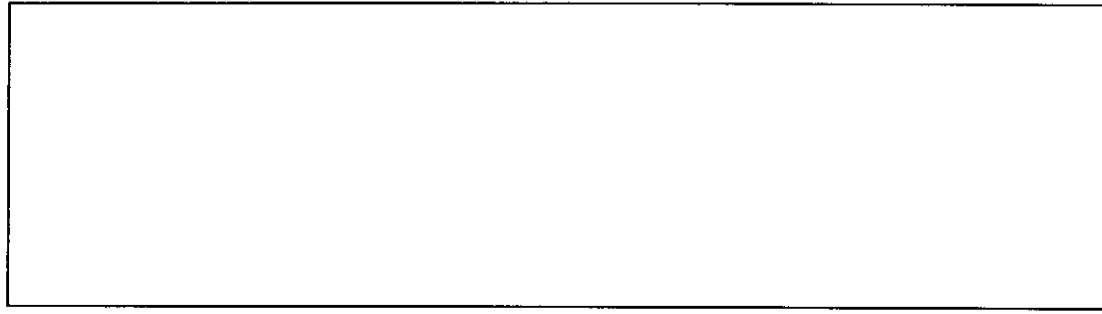
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